

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-20, 27-29 and 34-40 are pending herein.

I. The amendments made herein are respectfully asserted to be permissible after final rejection.

The USPTO respectfully rejects Claims 2-4, 6-20, 27-29 and 34-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

37 CFR 1.116, that states:

- (1) An amendment may be made canceling claims or complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action;
- (2) An amendment presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal may be admitted; or
- (3) An amendment touching the merits of the application or patent under reexamination may be admitted upon a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented.

Applicant has respectfully deleted the term "security level" in the claims and replaced it with term "copyright protection level" in accordance with the Examiner's comments at page 3 where the Examiner respectfully states: "The specification has support for copyright protection level but not security level. This is the first instance of this invention that is unrelated and unsupported by the original filing." Also, the Examiner required that "security level" be canceled at page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for his advice and has followed the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, applicant respectfully asserts that he is simply following the Examiner's instructions and cooperating, and that (1), (2), and (3) above also apply in this case.

Also, the issue of copyright protection level was already discussed in the Office Action at pages 4, 5, 7. Therefore, a new search is not respectfully believed to be required and the 112 rejections are respectfully asserted to be traversed.

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II. Claim rejections based on Onodera et al (US 6,700,677) or Holmes et al (US 6,119,108) in view of Auerbach et al. (US 5,673,316) and either Shima (US 6,369,909 or 6,940,615).

The USPTO respectfully rejects Claims 2-4, 6-20, 27-29 and 34-40 under U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Onodera et al (US 6,700,677) or Holmes et al (US 6,119,108) in view of Auerbach et al. (US 5,673,316) and either Shima (US 6,369,909 or 6,940,615).

In section "3" of the Office Action, the USPTO argues that the difference between Onodera or Holmes and the present invention is the use of the specific portions for security level control, e.g. abstract.

However, Onodera or Holmes does not disclose, teach or suggest at least the claimed limitations of claim 34 below and these limitations are not functionally equivalent to Onodera or Holmes, that is,

"the server comprising:
an acquiring section to acquire information regarding copyright protection level
security level of a printer client which requests the server to send data;
a specifying section to specify data to be sent corresponding to the copyright
protection levelsecurity level of the printer client;

Auerbach discloses a technology to utilize cryptographic envelopes. According to Auerbach, the envelope is an aggregation of information parts, where each of the parts to be protected are encrypted with a corresponding parts encryption key. And the parts encryption key is delivered at the time of delivering encrypted digital document (information parts) to a user.

The USPTO respectfully suggests that the configuration of obtaining each information parts in Auerbach corresponds to the configuration of obtaining the data in claim 34.

However, claim 34 has a characteristic feature of specifying the data to be sent
corresponding to the copyright protection level of the printer client.

The copyright protection level differs depending on the security system provided to the printer client and on the place (such as a library or a convenience store) where the printer

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client is installed. Therefore, the server acquires the information regarding the copyright protection level of a printer client, and the server specifies the data having an adequate copyright protection level out of various data corresponding to the copyright protection level of the printer client, and send the specified data to the printer client. This configuration ensures the protection of the copyright of data to be sent.

Shima discloses a printer system compliant to various printer languages. Shima specifically discloses a configuration where respective functions of plural printers are memorized, a printer appropriate to a print job data is selected, and the selected printer executes the print.

On the other hand, the present invention has a configuration that specifies the data corresponding to the copyright protection level of the printer client. The copyright protection level differs depending on the installation place of the printer client, for example. And the specified data having an adequate copyright protection level corresponding to the installation place of the printer client, for example, is sent to the printer client. This configuration ensures the protection of the copyright of data to be sent.

As described above, none of the cited references teach or suggest the limitations of claim 34. Claims 38, 39, and 40 are allowable for the same reasons as above. The remaining dependent claims are therefore also allowable.

III. Conclusion.

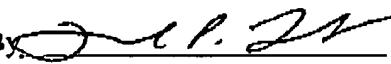
Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please call the undersigned for any reason. Applicant seeks to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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